10:Emeneau L-5 (1935-1937) 1938
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262 from the plains on the Tamilian side of the hills, either directly
437 or through Kurumba middlemen. The details of these last
648 transactions have been almost entirely forgotten through disuse.
443 At the present time rice is obtained in the bazaars of Ootacamund
439 and probably Kotagiri, chiefly from the Chettis, who also supply
all the cloaks worn by the Todas and the waistcloths put on
corpses at funerals, as well as many other articles. These articles
[29] are paid for chiefly with milk and ghee. While the milk of
sacred buffaloes is too sacred to be thus profaned, the sanctity
has been removed by the time it reaches the ghee-stage, and ghee
may be sold, irrespective of its origin. The transactions with the
Chettis are not allowed by them to be profitable to the Todas. If
[926] a Toda has only a few buffaloes, he is always in debt. And even
a Toda with a fair number of buffaloes will usually be in debt.
This starts during the dry season when the buffaloes give little
milk and ghee is scarce. The Chetti is usually asked for credit
[952] and once this begins, the Toda can seldom free himself even if
he suffers no accidental misfortune such as the death of a buffalo.
The complicated transfers of buffaloes at ceremonies undoubtedly
play a large part in the impoverishment of many Todas, as well
as the slaughter of buffaloes at funerals, and certain ceremonies
involving feasts complete the process. Under this system of
traffic in the bazaar the Todas as a tribe are never free of debt.
[957] When the Toda Amelioration Scheme was initiated some years
[958] ago under the aegis of Government, it was considered that the
first step to be taken was the paying off of the Todas' debts and
this was done by Government. The Scheme was unsuccessful
(see below) and the debts have grown again.

648 The Badagas, as has been said above, still continue their
437 contributions to the Todas, while the Todas supply them with a
small amount of produce and make various other small returns.
The economic interchange between Kotas and Todas continues.
This takes the form chiefly of a supply of tools and pots and the
playing of music at funerals by the Kotas, and in return they
acquire the carcasses and hides of the buffaloes slaughtered at
funerals, a certain amount of ghee, and occasionally other articles.
In both cases it seems probable that the Todas are the gainers in
the total of transactions. The continuance of these interchanges